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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

25X1A

COUNTRY

USSR

SUBJECT

Conversation with Soviet Waitress on the  
Trans-Siberian RailroadPLACE ACQUIRED  
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SOURCE

1. "During the trip across the USSR on the Trans-Siberian Railroad, we were served in the dining car by two waitresses, working on the same shift without relief. These waitresses lived in a special compartment and were not allowed to travel through the train.
2. "I had a lengthy conversation in Russian with one of the waitresses who was about 31 years old. It occurred one afternoon during the inactive part of the day in the dining car while I was sitting alone at my table (other passengers present at their respective tables). I began the conversation and invited her to sit down which she did. I had noticed that her face reflected a very glassy stare similar to a person suffering from a nervous breakdown.
3. "I carried most of the conversation and learned that she had married in 1941 but after two years her husband went to 'the front' and was killed. They had one daughter who was now studying violin at Moscow for 75 rubles a month.
4. "The daughter was living with her maternal grandmother in Moscow who received a 200 ruble old-age pension. Since this pension was insufficient to provide the basic necessities of life, this waitress had to send to her mother a portion of her salary which was 300 rubles a month (net). The waitress received in addition meals and accommodations on the train. This waitress explained that she would never marry again because her husband would be most likely often intoxicated, which would be a bad influence on her daughter. Further, if married, her daughter would have to do the cooking because both husband and wife must work in the USSR. This waitress was astonished to learn that a wife in the US could spend her full day in the home and did not have to work.
5. "This waitress stated that she enjoyed the theatre very much but could not afford it or the cinema. Occasionally, however, she watched television.
6. "This waitress stated that she disliked her work although she had been doing it for the past eight to ten years. She was assigned to this work by the government during the war and had no ability or education to do anything else, since she had only six years of school.

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2

7. "This waitress stated that she had to go to a political school to study Marxism-Leninism during her time off which would be from Monday A M to Wednesday P M each time her train arrived in Moscow twice a month.
8. "Throughout the trip a number of Soviet citizens, who were spending considerable sums of money, attempted to become personal with this waitress. Each approach was definitely rebuffed. This waitress, however, gave me her address in Moscow and suggested that I come to see her there.
9. "I received a considerable amount of coolness from the rest of the passengers throughout the remainder of the trip because of my long conversation with this waitress.
10. "At no time did she ask me any questions about my life, my ideas or my impressions of the USSR. Nor did anyone else on the Trans-Siberian Railroad ever ask me any questions. I was never under any type of surveillance during the trip."

[Collector's note: Since it cannot be explained why a group of seven US citizens were allowed to travel unattended through the USSR, it seems possible that this waitress had been instructed to report to a government official the results of this conversation. She is the only individual who was in frequent contact with the US civilian internees.]

- end -

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